

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.3

(ee) *Outstanding or unusually meritorious performance.* Performance of duty determined by the employing component to have contributed to an unusually significant degree toward the furtherance of good relations between the United States and the foreign government tendering the decoration. This requires that the service be of national significance to the foreign government and that it be performed under exceptionally difficult, extraordinary, or hazardous conditions.

(ff) *Peacetime criteria.* (1) In a period when the United States is not engaged in the prosecution of a formal declared war.

(2) Applied outside a combat zone when the United States is engaged in military operations against an armed enemy, but is not prosecuting a formally declared war, except that in the communications zone those individuals whose duties are in connection with military operations against an armed enemy may be considered under wartime criteria.

(3) A period in specified areas where U.S. troops are engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(gg) *Primary next of kin.* Primary next of kin are, in order of precedence, surviving spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest brother or sister, or eldest grandchild.

(hh) *Reserve Components of the Army.* The Army National Guard of the United States and the U.S. Army Reserve.

(ii) *U.S. Individual Army decorations.* U.S. Individual Army decorations are the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

(jj) *U.S. unit decorations.* U.S. unit decorations are the Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Army Superior Unit Award.

(kk) *Valor.* Heroism performed under combat conditions.

(ll) *Wartime criteria.* (1) A period of formally declared war and for 1 year after the cessation of hostilities.

(2) A period of military operations against an armed enemy and for 1 year after cessation of hostilities. Only those individuals actually in the combat zone or those in the communications zone whose duties involve direct control or support of combat operations are to be considered under wartime criteria.

(3) A period of national emergency declared by the President or by the Congress.

§ 578.3 Display sets of award elements and the Medal of Honor.

(a) *Government agencies.* Upon approval by the Secretary of the Army, samples of military decorations may be furnished, without charge, for one display at the headquarters of each Army and higher field commander, in the offices of the chiefs of governmental agencies not under military jurisdiction where opportunity for the public to view the display is assured, and in each office of Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) with activities that include matters pertaining to decorations.

(b) *Civilian institutions.* Upon approval by the Secretary of the Army, samples of military decorations may be furnished, at cost price, to museums, libraries, and to national headquarters of historical, numismatic, and military societies; and to institutions of such public nature as will assure an opportunity for the public to view the exhibits under circumstances beneficial to the Army. All decorations furnished to civilian institutions for exhibition purposes will be engraved with the words, "For Exhibition Purposes only."

(c) *Requests.* Letter requests for decorations for exhibit or display will be made to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (USA HRC), ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471.

(d) *Display.* Service medals for service prior to World War II will not be provided for display purposes since only minimum essential quantities are

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available for issue to authorized recipients.

(e) *Purchase of medals.* Except for the Medal of Honor, all other decorations, service medals, and ribbons can be purchased from private vendors who have been issued a certificate of authority by the Institute of Heraldry. A list of certified vendors can be obtained from HQ, USA HRC (see § 578.3 (c)).

(f) *Display sets of the Medal of Honor.* Upon written requests, The Adjutant General of the Army can approve issue

of a display Medal of Honor to government agencies (defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section). Adequate security arrangement must be provided for the medal so that it will not be lost through vandalism or theft. Maximum exposure of the medal to the public must be ensured, on a free of charge basis, under circumstances beneficial to the Army.

§ 578.4 U.S. Military decorations.

To whom awarded, see Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

Decorations listed in order of precedence	Awarded for:		Awarded to:			
	Heroism	Achievement or service	Military		Civilian	
			United States	Foreign	United States	Foreign
Medal of Honor	Combat	n/a	War ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a.
Distinguished Service Cross	Combat	n/a	War	War	n/a	n/a.
Distinguished Service Medal	War	War & Peace	War & Peace	War & Peace	War ²	War. ²
Silver Star	Combat	n/a	War	War	War ²	War. ²
Legion of Merit	n/a	War & Peace	War & Peace	War & Peace ⁵	n/a	n/a.
Distinguished Flying Cross	Combat	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace	War	n/a	n/a.
Soldier's Medal	Noncombat	n/a	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	n/a	n/a.
Bronze Star Medal	Combat ³	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	n/a	n/a.
Purple Heart	For wounds received as the result of hostile action.	n/a	War & Peace ^{7, 8}	n/a	n/a	n/a.
Meritorious Service Medal	n/a	Peace & War ⁹	Peace	Peace	n/a	n/a.
Air Medal	Combat ³	War & Peace ⁴	War & Peace ⁴	War	War ²	War. ²
Army Commendation Medal	Noncombat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a.
Army Achievement Medal	Combat ³	War	War & Peace ⁶	War & Peace ⁶	n/a	n/a.
	Noncombat	Peace	Peace ⁶	Peace ⁶	n/a	n/a.
	n/a	Peace & War ^{6, 9}	Peace ⁶	Peace ⁶	n/a	n/a.

Notes:

¹ The Medal of Honor is awarded only to U.S. military personnel.

² Under limited circumstances. Recommendations will be forwarded to HQ, USA HRC for processing.

³ Awarded with Bronze "V" Device for valor in combat.

⁴ Awarded for peacetime when no formal war has been declared but the U.S. is engaged in military operations against an armed enemy.

⁵ Awarded to foreign military personnel in one of four degrees.

⁶ Not awarded to general officers.

⁷ Awarded to military personnel wounded by terrorists or while members of a peacekeeping force.

⁸ Approval authority is the Secretary of the Army.

⁹ Authorized for award in a combat theater for non-combat meritorious service and achievement.

§ 578.5 Award recommendations.

(a) It is the responsibility and privilege of any individual having personal knowledge of an act, achievement, or service believed to warrant the award of a decoration to submit a recommendation for consideration. It is usually desirable that the intended recipient not be informed of a pending recommending or given an implied promise of an award prior to final approval and clearance. This is especially

true when the intended recipient is a foreigner.

(b) The Department of the Army (DA) Form 638 (Recommendation for Award) will be used to initiate, process and approve award recommendations of all U.S. Army individual decorations, to include valor and heroism decorations.

(c) Narrative description of meritorious service or achievement for awards of the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), Army Commendation